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Morning Papers	..	12th August, 1938.
Evening Papers	..	12th August, 1938.

RETAIL PRICES - JUNE QUARTER, 1938.

Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) "B" Series.

Index numbers for June Quarter 1938 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were:- Brisbane 834, Toowoomba 804, Rockhampton 826, Townsville 899, Bundaberg 780, Charters Towers 745 and Warwick 714.

From March to June quarter 1938 there were small increases in all cities except Toowoomba where there was no change. Compared with June Quarter 1937 the percentage increases were:- Brisbane 1.96, Rockhampton 2.48, Townsville 2.63, Bundaberg 3.72, Charters Towers 2.19 and Warwick 0.99. There was a decrease of 1.23 per cent. in Toowoomba. The cost of Food and Groceries only was greater in all cities than a year earlier. In Brisbane the increase was largely due to rises in the prices of potatoes, butter, beef, mutton, pork and eggs. The most important items to show decreases in price were bread, flour and milk. Rents of four and five roomed houses were higher in all cities except Toowoomba where a decline was recorded.

The Brisbane food and rent (4 and 5 rooms) index for the year ended June 1938 was 7.99 per cent. below the average for the year 1928.

"All Items" - "C" Series.

Index numbers for June quarter 1938 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were:- Brisbane 850, Toowoomba 844, Rockhampton 854, Townsville 901, Bundaberg 833, Charters Towers 836 and Warwick 789.

Percentage increases in the "C" Series index numbers between March and June quarter 1938 were:- Brisbane 0.47, Toowoomba 0.36, Rockhampton 0.59, Townsville 0.67, Bundaberg 1.46, Charters Towers 0.84 and Warwick 1.15. In Brisbane food and grocery costs increased 0.36 per cent., rent of four and five roomed houses 0.24 per cent., clothing 1.23 per cent., and miscellaneous items (consisting of household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, union dues, lodge dues, fares, newspapers etc.) 0.42 per cent.

Compared with June quarter 1937 the percentage increase in each city was:- Brisbane 2.04, Toowoomba 0.24, Rockhampton 1.79, Townsville 2.15, Bundaberg 3.09, Charters Towers 1.95 and Warwick 1.68. In Brisbane food and grocery costs increased 1.95 per cent., rent of four and five roomed houses 1.83 per cent., clothing (including footwear) 4.31 per cent. and miscellaneous items 0.64 per cent..

In June quarter 1938 the Brisbane index was 13.79 per cent. above that for March quarter 1933 when the index was 747 - the lowest point reached in the depression years.

Judged on the "All Items" index, prices and rents during the year ended June 1938 were 7.96 per cent. below the level in the year 1928.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in June quarter 1938 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City	All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane ..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba ..	19.10	19. 1	19. 7	1. 0. 1
Rockhampton	1. 0. 1	1. 1. 1	17.10	1. 0. 5
Townsville ..	1. 1. 2	1. 2. 2	1. 0. 6	1. 0. 3
Bundaberg ..	19. 7	1. 1. 2	14.10	1. 0. 2
Charters Towers	19. 8	1. 1. 9	11. 9	1. 0. 6
Warwick ..	18. 7	19. 5	13. 7	1. 0. 0

Comparison of Commonwealth and States Basic Wages.

In the following statement the present State Basic Wage of £4. 1. 0 in Brisbane is compared in the first column with the amounts required to purchase the same amount of commodities in the other capitals. The second column shows the actual State Basic wages and the third the actual Commonwealth Basic wages in the capitals. All comparisons are on the basis of June quarter 1938 index numbers.

Capital	Equivalent of £4. 1. 0 in Brisbane a.	State Basic Wage b.	Common- wealth Basic Wage c.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane ..	4. 1. 0	4. 1. 0	3.15. 0
Sydney ..	4. 6. 6	3.19. 0	4. 0. 0
Melbourne ..	4. 5. 0	d.	3.18. 0
Adelaide ..	4. 4. 9	3.14. 0	3.16. 0
Perth ..	4. 4. 5	4. 0. 0	3.16. 0
Hobart ..	4. 4. 4	d.	3.16. 0

- a. Based on "All Items" index "C" Series.
b. Current Rates.
c. Corresponding to March quarter "court" index numbers with the addition of the special loadings.
d. No State wage actually declared but follows Commonwealth rates to a large extent.

The basic wages are supposed to provide for a family of a standard size which varies according to different Courts. In Commonwealth awards the family is man, wife and 2 children; in Queensland and South Australian awards, man, wife and 3 children; in Western Australia, man, wife and 2 children; and in New South Wales, man, wife and 1 child, but child endowment of 5/- a week for each additional child is provided in that State.

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11th August, 1938.

RETAIL PRICES INDEXES.

Table No. 1.

FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (ALL HOUSES) - "A" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1911 in Six State Capitals)

CITY	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending Decr. 1937	Year Ending June 1938	QUARTERS ENDING				
				June 1937	Sept. 1937	Decr. 1937	March 1938	June 1938
Brisbane ..	1595	1434	1438	1426	1425	1439	1443	1444
Toowoomba ..	1458	1376	1380	1377	1356	1372	1394	1399
Rockhampton ..	1520	1343	1359	1343	1334	1353	1371	1377
Townsville ..	1781	1486	1501	1482	1478	1497	1507	1521
Bundaberg ..	(b)	1302	1329	1287	1315	1317	1339	1346
Weighted Average - Five Towns (a)	1571	1423	1429	1416	1414	1428	1436	1438
Charters Towers..	1508	1219	1242	1222	1207	1217	1266	1278
Warwick ..	1435	1255	1249	1261	1249	1244	1242	1262

Table No. 2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals)

CITY	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending Decr. 1937	Year Ending June 1938	QUARTERS ENDING				
				June 1937	Sept. 1937	Decr. 1937	March 1938	June 1938
Brisbane ..	901	824	829	818	819	829	832	834
Toowoomba ..	833	810	803	814	802	802	804	804
Rockhampton ..	858	808	816	806	804	814	820	826
Townsville ..	1047	877	886	876	872	882	891	899
Bundaberg ..	(b)	752	763	752	751	753	766	780
Weighted Average - Five Towns (a)	892	823	828	819	818	827	831	834
Charters Towers..	942	727	732	729	721	725	738	745
Warwick ..	841	707	707	707	703	708	703	714

Table No. 3.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals)

CITY	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending Decr. 1937	Year Ending June 1938	QUARTERS ENDING				
				June 1937	Sept. 1937	Decr. 1937	March 1938	June 1938
Brisbane ..	917	837	844	833	835	844	846	850
Toowoomba ..	906	840	840	842	837	839	841	844
Rockhampton ..	903	840	847	839	838	846	849	854
Townsville ..	1023	883	892	882	880	890	895	901
Bundaberg ..	(b)	809	819	808	809	813	821	833
Weighted Average - Five Towns (a)	915	840	847	836	838	846	849	853
Charters Towers..	925	819	826	820	816	822	829	836
Warwick ..	914	779	782	776	774	783	780	789

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September Quarter 1936.